



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Two “Coyotes” arrested for human smuggling following traffic stop and foot pursuit by DPS Officer off Interstate 10 in Tempe

Nineteen men who were in the country illegally were also captured

On February 23, 2009, at about 7:19 a.m., an Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officer attempted to stop a white Ford cargo van traveling westbound on Interstate 10 near Elliot Road for a traffic violation. The van exited the freeway, did not stop for the officer and began to travel east on Elliot Road. It then turned south onto Autoplex Loop in Tempe. When the van stopped, both the driver and passenger fled on foot. The van was left in gear and ended up backing into the DPS patrol car damaging the push bumper, causing about \$500 in damage. Both men were apprehended by the officer and were later determined to be “coyotes” or human smugglers.

Nineteen additional men were found in the van. All were identified as Mexican Nationals and believed to be in the country illegally. No women or children were in the group except for one minor, a 16- year-old male.

DPS was assisted by the Tempe Police Department and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Investigators from DPS believe the van was headed to T&P Farms in Arbuckle, Calif.

Arrested:

Driver: Eracleo Martinez-Guzman, 33, of Mexico

Passenger: Clemente Reteria-Lemus, 19, of Mexico

Both men were booked into the Maricopa County Jail on human smuggling charges. The additional 19 Mexican Nationals were turned over to ICE.

- End -

Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | azdps.gov | pio@azdps.gov